average education and respectability alone being selected for the purpose. That would reduce the chances of prosecution of policemen.

(8) The Police should be instructed to bestow sufficient care and attention on the cases referred to them by the Magistracy.

(9) The Commissioner and the District Superintendents of Police should possess intimate knowledge of the country, its laws and customs and language. Only such men should be appointed to the above posts.

(10) The direction of the Government that the Magistracy should exercise more freely the discretion vested in them by law in the matter of awarding compensation to accused persons so as to check vexatious prosecution of Policemen, was improper and should not be rigidly enforced.

(11) In cases which were referred as false by the Police, the Magistracy should not be compelled to sanction the prosecution of the complainants in all cases. The Magistrates should have free discretion in the matter.

(12) Local arrangements should be made for the training of Police Officers, so as to avoid the heavy expenditure incurred at present in deputing the men to Vellore for the purpose.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

IV. PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture and other Industries.

43. Certain difficulties experienced by the ryots of Nanjinad in the matter of cultivation and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) said that the following were the grievances of the ryots of Nanjinad in the matter of cultivation :—

(1) Although the date of opening the Kodayar reservoir had been fixed at the 20th May every year, water was not let out in time and therefore the crops failed.

(2) The Irrigation Department was not sufficiently sympathetic to the ryots nd did not endeavour to promote the interests of cultivation. The department was indifferent to the proper and timely supply of water, and hence the crops were seriously affected.

(3) There was serious public apprehension that the capacity of the Kodayar reservoir was insufficient to supply all the water required by the area commanded by the Project, and therefore the indiscriminate sale of tank-beds, which served a useful irrigation purpose, was calculated to produce disastrous consequences to the ryots of Nanjinad. The tank-beds were useful for the collection and storage of surplus water and for the grazing of cattle, and their disposal had rendered the above two purposes difficult of accomplishment.

(4) The order of the Government to dismantle the Pillapattu Dam in the Pazhayar river, instead of conserving the same in the interests of agriculture, would prove to be disastrous to the cultivation of the lands concerned. The loss to the Government thereby would be 15 times the cost of maintaining the said dam.

(5) The Pazhayar river annually flooded its banks and destroyed cultivation. That would not occur if parts of its banks were repaired, portions of the river were widened and other necessary improvements carried out.

(6) The want of sufficient grazing grounds in Nanjinad seriously affected the cattle of the place.

(7) The ryots and the officers of the Government felt considerable difficulty for want of roads to proceed to the several blocks commanded by the Tovala channel.

(8) The petitions presented by the ryots in regard to the repairs of the irrigation channels etc., had to be duly stamped with a half-rupee stamp. That was a hardship to them.

(9) The want of permanent sluices between the 7th and 19th miles of the Tovala channel was a source of avoidable loss to the ryots and to the Irrigation Department.

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(10) The old bridges constructed by the Irrigation Maramat Department in the interests of cultivation were left in a state of complete disrepair. The bridges, culverts &c., that were still required in certain places, were not attended to by the Government.

(11) The order of the Government empowering the officers of the Irrigation Department to distribute the water from the tank reservoirs was a source of hardship to the ryots and of friction between them and the department. The ryots had long enjoyed the privilege and were still exercising it. The staff sanctioned for the purpose was being employed otherwise.

(12) An Irrigation Committee was originally started with a view to ensure hearty co-operation between the Irrigation Department and the ryots. The Committee was not continued, the non-official members thereof were excluded and the Committee gradually became purely a conference of officers. That had tended to alienate the sympathies of the ryots.

To remedy the above defects, the Member suggested the following measures to be adopted:—

(1) The Kodayar reservoir and channels should be opened and closed on the 1st Idavom and 30th Makarom respectively every year.

(2) The Irrigation Department should not have the right to distribute water to the fields from the tanks and channels, and the order of the Government dated 5th December 1904 should be enforced.

(3) The disposal of tank-beds by public auction and their conversion into wet lands should be wholly stopped.

(4) The Pillapettu Dam in the Pazhayar River should be maintained and under-sluices constructed therein.

(5) The Pazhayar river should be widened wherever necessary and the damaged banks restored.

(6) A Committee should be appointed to enquire into the question of grazing grounds for Nanjinad and such grounds opened according to the recommendations of the Committee.

(7) Convenient roads should be opened to facilitate communication from one block to another under the various channels.

(8) Petitions relating to irrigation matters should be exempted from the levy of court fees.

(9) Permanent sluices should be constructed in respect of lands between the 7th and 19th miles of the Tovala channel, by the ryots and the Irrigation Department conjointly.

(10) Old irrigation bridges should be repaired, new ones constructed wherever necessary and dams and culverts put up, so as to help the storage of *manamari* water for cultivation.

(11) A Board consisting of officials and non-officials should be appointed to regulate the distribution of water amongst the several irrigation *kals* and channels.

(12) The quantity of water in the Kodayar reservoir lying above the level of the Kodayar channel should be published in the Gazette every week in the vernaculars of the country.

The Member also presented a memorial containing the above representations signed by several ryots of Tovala and Agastiswaram.

Dewan's reply.—The memorial presented by the Member and the suggestions made by him will be referred to the Chief Engineer for report.

44. Certain difficulties in the system of cultivation in the Padmanabhapuram Division and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam taluk) dwelt at considerable length on the circumstances which contributed to the poverty and agricultural indebtedness of the people of the State. In that connection, he referred to the Court Fees Regulation and pointed out how the enhancement of the court fees had increased the cost

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